

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126824 TOSEC 050046

EXDIS, FOR SPIEGEL FROM WISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM MOZAMBIQUE

1. FOLLOWING IS THE PRESS GUIDANCE WE PLAN TO USE
JUNE 2 ON THE RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

Q. WHAT ACTIONS HAS THE U.S. TAKEN TO SECURE THE WITH-
DRAWAL OF RHODESIAN FORCES FROM MOZAMBIQUE?

A. AS YOU KNOW, WE STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE RHODESIAN
INCURSION. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO
RHODESIA IN THIS RESPECT.

Q. WAS THIS RAISED WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS RHODESIA?

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A. OUR VIEWS ARE KNOWN TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE U.S. AND BRITAIN PLANNED TO TAKE
THIS ISSUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL?

A. WE AND THE BRITISH CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF STEPS THAT

MIGHT BE TAKEN TO PERSUADE THE RHODESIANS OF THE DANGER THEIR ACTIONS POSED NOT ONLY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY BUT ALSO TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Q. WERE PRESSURES OR THREATS BROUGHT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA TO PRESS THE RHODESIANS TO WITHDRAW?

A. THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE REGARDED THE RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH THE INCURSION COULD HAVE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE REGION WAS WELL KNOWN.

Q. DOES THE U.S. INTEND, EITHER SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER WITH THE U.K., TO PRESS FOR ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON RHODESIA?

A. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO DO SO.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE RHODESIANS HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR FORCES?

A. THE RHODESIANS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR WITHDRAWAL. WHILE WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS THE CASE. (AS NECESSARY -- IF WITHDRAWAL IS ANNOUNCED.)

Q. WERE THE SOUTH AFRICANS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RHODESIAN

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WITHDRAWAL?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THAT CONDEMNS MILITARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE RHODESIANS WHILE CONDONING THOSE OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS?

A. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT FAVOR VIOLENCE BY ANY OF THE PARTIES IN THE AREA. ALL OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION THAT WOULD END THE VIOLENCE. THAT IS THE COURSE OF ACTION WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE FORCE?

A. WE ARE MERELY STATING OUR BELIEF THAT THE RHODESIAN SITUATION CAN AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

END TEXT. HABIB

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